Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 6, with the following amended paragraph:

The present application is a division of application no. 09/475,989, filed December 30, 1999, now issued as U.S. Patent 6,696,063, which claims the benefit of priority from provisional application no. 60/114,389, filed December 30, 1998, the entire contents of both applications being hereby incorporated herein by reference.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 36, line 7, with the following amended paragraph:

A "variant" of the human growth hormone according to the present invention refers to a molecule which is substantially similar to either the entire peptide or a fragment thereof. Variant peptides may be conveniently prepared by direct chemical synthesis of the variant peptide, using methods well known in the art. Of course, a variant human growth hormone would have similar ~~similar~~ hGH receptor binding and signal initiating activity as hGH and which would, therefore, be expected to have similar anti-HADDS activity to hGH.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 43, line 25, with the following amended paragraph:

The growth hormone treatment in accordance with the present invention may be accomplished either by administration of

exogenous growth hormone or by administration of a substance which stimulates production of endogenous growth hormone either directly or indirectly by ~~supressing~~suppressing endogenous somatostatin secretion. It is known that human growth hormone releasing hormone (hGHRH) stimulates the release of hGH. Thus, the biological activity of hGH can be indirectly obtained by administering GHRH or a functional derivative, salt, variant, analog or fragment thereof which retains the biological activity of GHRH, i.e., the ability to stimulate the release of growth hormone. Thus, for example, besides GHRH there may be used functional derivatives thereof in accordance with the above definition, analogs or variants thereof, which have at least 70% sequence identity, more preferably 80% or 90% or, most preferably, 95% sequence identity therewith, yet retains the biological activity of GHRH, or a variant or analog which is a polypeptide encoded by a DNA which hybridizes to the native DNA encoding GHRH under moderately stringent conditions, or preferably under highly stringent conditions, all in accordance with the definitions given hereinabove. Any of the GHRH or GHRH analogs or agonists known in the literature and disclosed as ~~simulating~~ stimulating the release of growth hormone can be used in the present invention, such as those disclosed in U.S. patents 5,792,747; 5,776,901; 5,696,089; 5,137,872; 5,767,085; 5,612,470; 5,846,936; and 5,847,066. See also Thorner et al (1997), Felix

et al (1995), Alba-Roth et al (1988), Friend et al (1997). U.S. patent 5,696,089 explains that GHRH (which is designated as growth hormone releasing factor (GRF) therein) has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 (GHRH (1-44)). It also discloses that GHRH (1-40), which is identical to GHRH (1-44) except for the absence of the C-terminal four amino acid residues, is also specific for the release of growth hormone. It further discloses that full intrinsic activity and potency has been demonstrated with GHRH (1-29)-NH_2 *in vitro*.